

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 03716 01 OF 02 220611Z

16

ACTION SPM-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 OIC-04 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, SPOP, UNWPC

SUBJECT: WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE - 5TH PLENARY MEETING - AUGUST 21

SUMMARY

CONTINUATION OF GENERAL DEBATE, INCLUDING ITEM 7 ON "RECENT
DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS." LIST OF SPEAKERS
INCLUDED: USSR, NORTH KOREA, RWANDA, THE NETHERLANDS, REPUBLIC
OF KOREA, NORWAY, LEBANON, PANAMA, YUGOSLAVIA, UNESCO AND ECE.
END OF SUMMARY

1. USSR DELEGATE RECOGNIZED THAT POPULATION PROBLEMS DIRECTLY
AFFECT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND OTHER INTERESTS
OF COUNTRIES. FOR THAT REASON, HE EXPRESSED DEEP REGRET OVER
ABSENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF A NUMBER OF PEOPLES (SEE SEPTTEL)

DEMOGRAPHIC PROCESSES, IN HIS VIEW, ARE BASED ON SOCIAL-ECONOMIC
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PAGE 02 BUCAR 03716 01 OF 02 220611Z

FACTORS. IF A COUNTRY CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO HAVE A POPULATION

POLICY, ITS EFFECTIVENESS REQUIRES INTEGRATED APPROACH WITHIN A FRAMEWORK OF OVERALL SOCIAL-ECONOMIC POLICIES WHOSE AIR IS IMPROVEMENT OF LEVELS OF LIVING OF ALL SEGMENTS OF POPULATION, AND WHICH PROVIDE FOR SOCIAL-ECONOMIC MEASURES ENSURING PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY.

USSR CONSIDERS THAT RECENT EASING OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION OFFERS FERTILE GROUND FOR BUSINESS-LIKE COOPERATION AMONG COUNTRIES IN VARIOUS PURSUITS, INCLUDING DEMOGRAPHIC. SUCH COOPERATION, IF GENUINELY DEMOCRATIC IN CHARACTER AND BASED ON FULL RESPECT OF SOVEREIGN RIGHTS, OPENS ADDITIONAL PROSPECTS FOR SOCIAL-ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN THE WORLD. USSR STRESSED THAT AT BASIS OF CHANGES IN DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS LIE QUALITATIVE CHANGES IN CONDITIONS OF LIVING. THESE CHANGES, IN TURN, ARE DETERMINED BY QUALITY OF PRODUCTIVE FORCES, CHARACTER OF PRODUCTIVE SYSTEM, AND CONDITIONS GOVERNING DISTRIBUTION OF NATIONAL RESOURCES AND WEALTH. HISTORY OF MANY COUNTRIES REPEATEDLY DEMONSTRATES THE VALIDITY OF THESE PREMISES OF MARXIST-LENINIST THEORY, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WHICH IS RELEVANT TO UNDERSTANDING POPULATION PROBLEMS.

THE SPEAKER NOTED THAT LOW GROWTH RATES OF POPULATION IN MANY CAPITALIST COUNTRIES DO NOT RID THEM OF RELATIVE OVERPOPULATION, FOUND UNDER CONDITIONS OF CHRONIC UNEMPLOYMENT, POVERTY, AND HUNGER AMONG SIGNIFICANT SEGMENT OF POPULATION.

IN USSR VIEW, HIGH RATES OF POPULATION GROWTH IN MOST LDC'S ARE CONSEQUENCES OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS INHERITED FROM COLONIAL DOMINATION. NUMBER OF AUTHORS, INCLUDING POLITICAL ACTIVISTS (DEYATELI) IN WESTERN COUNTRIES, MAINTAIN THAT HIGH GROWTH RATES IN LDC'S ARE BASIC CAUSES OF SLOW PROGRESS AND THAT THEIR REDUCTION THROUGH BIRTH CONTROL SHOULD BE THE PRIMARY TASK OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. SUCH APPROACH, IN SPEAKER'S VIEW, HAS NO RELATION TO REAL CAUSES OF UNDERDEVELOPMENT AND MERELY DIVERTS ATTENTION FROM NECESSITY TO INSTITUTE FUNDAMENTAL SOCIAL-ECONOMIC REFORMS. MANY INTERNATIONAL FORUMS ALREADY IDENTIFIED MAJOR CAUSES OF UNDERDEVELOPMENT; THE ESSENCE OF PROBLEM LIES IN THE FACT THAT MANY LDC'S TO THIS DAY REMAIN OBJECTS OF EXPLOITATION BY MONOPOLISTIC CAPITAL, OFTEN BACKED BY OFFICIAL POLICY. EXPORT OF PROFITS CONTINUES AS BEFORE AND THUS REDUCES ALREADY LIMITED RESOURCES OF LDC'S.

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PAGE 03 BUCHAR 03716 01 OF 02 220611Z

WHAT IS NEEDED, IN USSR VIEW, IS SYSTEMATIC RESTRUCTURING OF SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS, REMOVAL OF ALL REMNANTS OF COLONIALISM AND OF ALL FORMS OF INEQUALITIES. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS BEAR FRUIT.

TOWARD THE END OF THE SPEECH, THE SOVIET DELEGATE REJECTED ANY NOTION OF USSR RESPONSIBILITY FOR HISTORIC EXPLOITATION OF LDC'S.

2. RWANDA'S REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY'S POPULATION PROBLEM IS SERIOUS, AS INDICATED BY HIGH AGRICULTURAL DENSITY, EXTREMELY YOUNG POPULATION, AND INTENSIFICATION OF RURAL EXODUS. MASSIVE EMIGRATION IS NOT POSSIBLE, SINCE IT REQUIRES COOPERATION OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE SPEAKER NOTED THAT REGIONAL AFRICAN ORGANIZATIONS HAVE GREAT TASK TO FACILITATE BETTER DISTRIBUTION OF CONTINENTS MANPOWER RESOURCES.

GOR WILL NOT EMPLOY HASTY SOLUTIONS TO ITS DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS IT DOES NOT ADOPT WILL BE PURELY RWANDAN. BIRTH CONTROL IS NOT VIEWED AS AN ANSWER TO DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS BUT FAMILY PLANNING MAY BE JUSTIFIED BY DIFFICULT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF FAMILY AND MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH. A GOVERNMENT'S DUTY IS TO GIVE INFORMATION. RWANDA'S URBAN POPULATION IS SLOWLY ADOPTING FAMILY PLANNING; NO SUCH INDICATION IN RURAL AREAS.

3. REPRESENTATIVE OF LEBANON BELIEVES THAT PLAN OF ACTION SHOULD TOUCH ON PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES, IN RECOGNITION OF PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND TO FULFILLMENT OF LEGITIMATE TERRITORIAL ASPIRATIONS.

HE ALSO WISHES THE PLAN TO RECOGNIZE (1) FAMILY AS BASIC REPRODUCTIVE UNIT; (2) EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF NATIONS AND COUPLES IN POPULATION MATTERS; (3) NEED FOR POPULATION POLICIES TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF DEVELOPMENTAL IMPERATIVES; AND (4) IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF PROMOTION OF UN CHARTER AND FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER.

4. NORWAY'S MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION VIEWS CONFERENCE'S PRIMARY AIM TO BE TO IMPROVE HEALTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 BUCAR 03716 01 OF 02 220611Z

AND WELFARE OF INDIVIDUALS. SERVICES, INCLUDING FAMILY PLANNING, MUST REACH COUNTRY-SIDE AND SLUMS WHERE NEED IS GREATEST. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT COMPETENT ORGANS PROCEED TO CONCRETE ESTIMATION OF COSTS INVOLVED,

ONCE THIS IS DONE, THE NEED FOR INCREASED TRANSFER OF RESOURCES TO LDC'S WILL BECOME CLEAR. PLAN OF ACTION RIGHTLY RECOGNIZES THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF LDC PROGRAMS WILL REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE EXPANSION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN POPULATION FIELD.

5. NETHERLAND'S MINISTER FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION INDICATED HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN THAT CONTINUED POPULATION GROWTH IN NETHERLANDS MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT THE WELL-BEING AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE COUNTRY'S ENTIRE POPULATION. WORLD-WIDE POPULATION PROBLEM IS MAINLY DUE, IN SPEAKER'S VIEW, TO OVERALL IMBALANCE

BETWEEN WORLD'S NEEDS AND RESOURCES ON THE ONE HAND, AND TO INCREASING

INEQUALITY BETWEEN AND WITHIN NATIONS, ON THE OTHER. BY CURBING EXCESSIVE GROWTH OF MATERIAL CONSUMPTION IN DC'S AND RAPID POPULATION GROWTH IN LDC'S, WORLD WOULD ACQUIRE TWO ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS FOR A MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF PROSPERITY. THESE DISTRIBUTIVE CHANGES, STEMMING FROM STABILIZATION OF BOTH POPULATION SIZE AND MATERIAL CONSUMPTION, REQUIRE POLITICAL WILL NATIONALLY, AS WELL AS INTERNATIONALLY. IT IS THE MAIN TASK OF THIS CONFERENCE TO PROMOTE BROAD ACCEPTANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH A NEW POLICY.

6. PANAMA'S VICE MINISTER FOR PLANNING SAID HIS COUNTRY'S FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM IS UNDERDEVELOPMENT BUT IT CANNOT BE ERADICATED BY REDUCING POPULATION GROWTH RATE. PANAMA REJECTS ALL "FOREIGN

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 03716 02 OF 02 212128Z

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MEASURES" TO INFLUENCE ITS DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION AND CALLS FOR "EFFECTIVE JUSTICE" IN MATTERS OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER CANAL ZONE AS WELL AS IN OTHER INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. PANAMA ALSO BELIEVES

THAT DC'S ARE UNDER OBLIGATION TO SHARE WITH LDC'S TECHNOLOGY AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

7. NORTH KOREA'S DEPUTY MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH REGRETTED FAILURE OF WPC TO INVITE VIET CONG REPRESENTATIVES AND ASKED THAT IT BE RECTIFIED (SEE SEPTTEL). THE DELEGATE PLEDGED TO SUPPORT ALL PROPOSALS OF LDC'S AIMED AT STRENGTHENING LDC'S INDEPENDENCE AND ESTABLISHING NEW ECONOMIC ORDER.

HE STATED THAT NORTH KOREA EFKPRKL IS EXPERIENCING NO POPULATION PROBLEMS. IN DESCRIBING THIS COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC POLICIES AND PROGRAMS HE REPORTED THAT NORTH KOREA'S LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH HAS REACHED 71 YEARS (A VERY HIGH LEVEL), A FIGURE NOT PREVIOUSLY AVAILABLE.

THE DELEGATE ALSO DELIVERED A MINI-DIATRIBE AGAINST SOUTH KOREA (ROK DELEGATION CLAIMED RIGHT OF REPLY). IGE ACCUSED ROK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PAGE 02 BUCAR 03716 02 OF 02 212128Z

OF PRACTICING INJUSTICE AND CORRUPTION IBAEXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN OVER "PEOPLE'S SUFFERING" IN SOUTH KOREA. THE SPEAKER MENTIONED ROK REJECTION OF PRK'S "CONCRETE PROPOSALS" TO IMPROVE SOUTH KOREA'S LOT, AND OPINED THAT ROK MUST FIRST SOLVE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO SOLVE POPULATION PROBLEMS. AT THE END, HE ACCUSED ROK OF MAINTAINING PROSTITUTION ("2,000" WOMEN) FOR "SEXUAL SATISFACTION OF TOURISTS".

8. SOUTH KOREA'S DELEGATE SAID THAT COUNTRY'S EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES WERE ALREADY REDUCED DUE TO STEADY DIFFUSION OF FAMILY PLANNING PRACTICES AND CONSEQUENT SLOW-DOWN IN GROWTH OF SCHOOL-AGE POPULATION. THE COUNTRY STILL HAS SERIOUS POPULATION PROBLEMS AND FACES A PROSPECT OF CONTINUED POPULATION GROWTH WELL INTO 21ST CENTURY. MOREOVER, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHETHER PAST RATES OF ACCEPTANCE OF FAMILY PLANNING PRACTICES CAN BE MAINTAINED OR ACCELERATED IN THE FUTURE.

9. YUGOSLAVIA'S DELEGATE REGRETTED ABSENCE OF VIET CONG AND GRUNK REPRESENTATIVES AT CONFERENCE (SEE SEPTTEL). HE SAID THAT ALL COUNTRIES EXPERIENCE SOME FORM OF POPULATION PROBLEMS. A POSITIVE POPULATION POLICY CANNOT BE SUCCESSFUL, HOWEVER, WITHOUT RESHAPING PREVAILING WORLD RELATIONS AND ESTABLISHING A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER BASED ON EQUALITY, SOVEREIGN EQUALITY, COMMON INTERESTS, AND COLLABORATION.

10. ECE'S EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OUTLINED CONTINENT'S DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS. POPULATION STABILIZATION POSSIBLE IN MANY COUNTRIES BY 1990; POSSIBILITY OF DECLINE IN ABSOLUTE SIZE OF THESE POPULATIONS BY 2000 IS NOT RULED OUT. HISTORICAL DECLINE IN AGE-SPECIFIC MORTALITY LEVELS HAS APPARENTLY HALTED IN MANY EUROPEANS COUNTRIES. MOREOVER, MORTALITY AMONG PEOPLE OVER 50 YEARS OF AGE (40 YEARS IN SOME COUNTRIES) HAS RISEN SOMEWHAT. SPEAKER ATTRIBUTED IT, IN PART, TO ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS. ECE EXEC. SECY. SAID THERE IS A CONSENSUS WITHIN EUROPE ON NUMBER OF ISSUES. ANY

EXCESSIVELY RAPID CHANGE IN FERTILITY IS CONSIDERED HARMFUL; POPULATION COUPLES HAVE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO FAMILY PLANNING INFORMATION AND MEANS; RESEARCH INTO INTER-RELATIONSHIP OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS SHOULD BE EXPANDED; EUROPEAN DEMOGRAPHIC EXPERIENCE HAS POTENTIAL RELEVANCE FOR LDC'S.

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PAGE 03 BUCAR 03716 02 OF 02 212128Z

11. UNESCO'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL SAID THAT ORGANIZATION'S COMMITMENT TO POPULATION QUESTIONS HAS BEEN UNTIL RECENTLY CIRCUMSCRIBED BECAUSE OF POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF POPULATION ISSUES. OVER LAST FEW YEARS CLIMATE CHANGED AND UNESCO'S ACTIVITIES EXPANDED SIGNIFICANTLY. A PARTICULAR FOCUS OF ITS PRESENT WORK IS INTERACTION BETWEEN SOCIAL CHANGE AND FAMILY STRUCTURE. BARNES

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